communication system to keep pace with time. Apart from advisories, the Central Government has been providing, since 1969, financial assistance to the State Government through its scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces as well as by releasing money on the basis of the recommendations of the Finance Commissions. The multi-crore project viz., Crime-Criminal Information System, providing for a computer in each of the districts in the country, has been also implemented by the Central Government. These computers will be linked to each other in due course.

Paramilitary Forces to Nab Veerappan

847. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Paramilitary Forces have been engaged to arrest/nab the sandalwood smuggler Veerappan and if so, the details of the number of personnel so deployed since last three years and the expenditure incurred on this specified project;

(b) whether Veerappan has kidnapped recently some State officials and the State Governments have requested the Central Government for assistance; and

(c) if so, the action taken on State Government's requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFARIS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) As per information available, the BSF was deployed in Karnataka for operations against Veerappan as indicated below:

05.06.93 to 16.03.94 — 5 coys

16.03.94 to 31.08.94 — 2 coys

31.08.94 to 15.04.95 — 1 coy

As per information furnished by the State Government of Karnataka, an expenditure of Rs. 12.37 crores was incurred by the state government, from 9.4.1990 to 28.2.1997, for the purpose of nabbing Veerappan.

(b) and (c) As per information available Veerappan had kidnapped 16 officials belonging to the Karnataka Forest Department recently. All of them have been set free. In the wake of the kidnapping of these individuals by Veerappan, the state govt. of Karnataka has requested the Central Government for assistance in the form of Central Para-Military Force to nab Veerappan. In a meeting subsequently held in the Home Ministry with senior officials of both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka it was decided that Tamil Nadu Police and Karnataka Police should have a joint command and upgrade intelligence collection before launching operation to nab Veerappan. Trained Commandoes of the Central Police Force will then be deputed, as and when necessary, to assist the joint command of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the operation.

Reservation of Seats for Muslims

848. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Hon'ble Defence Minister's statement which appeared in the Asian Age, dated 18th August, 1997 that there should be reservation of seats for Muslims:

(b) whether this represents Government's policy; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government would explain such gross violation of joint responsibility of the Cabinet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration for providing reservation of seats for Muslims.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to (b) above.

CBI Requests for Prosecution Pending with Government

849. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of CBI requests for prosecution pending with Government; and